

**NATURAL LANGUAGE METHOD AND SYSTEM FOR MATCHING  
AND RANKING DOCUMENTS IN TERMS OF SEMANTIC  
RELATEDNESS**

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**ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE**

A method and system are provided for matching a reference document with a plurality of corpus documents. Semantic content is derived from the reference document according to a hierarchical arrangement of semantic types. For each corpus document, semantic content is also derived from the corpus document according to the hierarchical arrangement of semantic types. A matching score is produced for each corpus document by determining a relatedness between the corpus document and the reference document. This relatedness is derived from the respective semantic contents of the two documents. The corpus documents may be ranked in accordance with the determined matching scores.

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